

THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME 7

**

NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1989

EDITED BY:	DICK WAGNER
CHAIRMAN:	MICHAEL CARVER
V/CHAIRMAN:	MERLIN RAYMOND
SECRETARY:	BETTY SCHAFFLER
TREASURER:	ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER:	BOB EVANS
LIBRARIANS:	JACK ARMSTRONG
	BILL DUNLOP

MEETING

The NOVEMBER meeting will be:

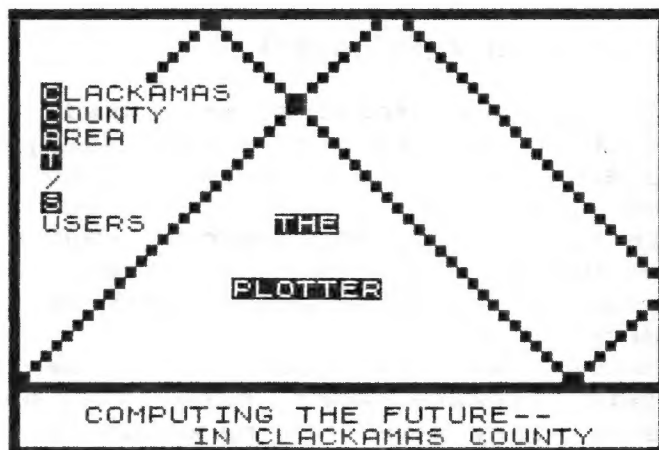
on: FRI., NOVEMBER 10, 1989

meeting room open at: 7:00 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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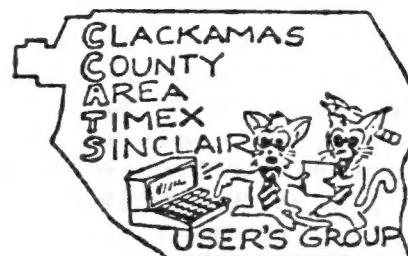
EDITORIAL

Dick Wagner

It seems that members are not taking advantage of our fine group library to the extent that it really seems worth while to put a lot of time and effort to maintain it plus paying for about 15 newsletters. Yes, we pay for each one on an exchange basis and it costs for printing and mailing. Add to that the time to print, assemble, address, stamp, and mail each one.

I have recently index on disk about 38 newsletters received since the first of this year so that file is now current. This was a stack that had not been "touched" since Rod received and read them. The filing system is the original Pro File . I am sure most members are acquainted with it. Rod is willing to take time to set up the operation so a user can search for a particular subject. Recently he had reason to find a particular subject and he zeroed in it pronto.

» » »



Continued from page 1

As separate folders are used for each user group's newsletters, a search for a particular issue is easy. However, I have not filed the current group, so someone needs to volunteer for this service. It requires punching and inserting in proper sequence.

Members who volunteer for some of this library work have a nice deal--they have the opportunity to go thru the newsletters and make copies of programs and articles of interest. Once a month is all it takes.

Our organization is based on volunteer activity. Several members are carrying the major load in seeing that essentials are taken care of. We have very diligently seen that various things are done on time so that we can have good meetings and good communications. It is time for other members to see that other necessary tasks are taken care of.

BITS & BYTES

by: **ROD GOWEN**

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, NOON - 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

WMJ DATA SYSTEMS

WMJ DATA SYSTEMS has SOLD OUT! RMG Enterprises now owns all of the TS products that WMJ had in stock. Included in the buy-out were some 900 pieces of software, both 1000 and 2068, some 300 books for both as well as a number of TS1000s, TS1016s, TS2040s and other misc. hardware. A complete list available in about a month. WATCH FOR GREAT SPECIALS!

KNIGHTED

COMPUTERS With the above news, we

lay to rest any chance that the Quick-silva and other software titles that Knighted had the rights to will ever be available again. We will keep you informed.

NOVELSOFT SOFTWARE

RMG Enterprises has aquired the rights to sell the complete line of Novelsoft software. Including: TIMACHINE, ZXPRT, ARTWORX and THE WORX. We can distribute these titles on LARKEN DISK FORMAT ONLY! Novelsoft retains the rights to the cassette versions. We should be able to start delivering these disks in about 1 month. PRICE?: \$19.95 + \$3 ALL FOUR ON 1 DISK SSDD ONLY (NO QUADS)

LARKEN ELECTRONICS

We spoke to Larry again a few days ago, he informed us that he had purchased a PC clone. He said that he hoped to finish some 2068 projects before getting too involved learning a new machine and DOS. We also hope that he finishes the projects currently under way. Larry is notoriously S L O W in making deliveries on hardware items, but up until now he has always come through. He is working on the desktop publisher again so we may see it in a few weeks. We will keep you posted on this.

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE

GOOD NEWS!?! Time Designs Magazine can now be reached! Tim Woods has set up a BBS using Casboard on his 2068. It is the same business phone number: 503/824-2658 with settings of 8/1/N 300 Baud only. You might want to give it a try and catch up on any news he may post. He also said that Vol. 5, No. 2 was currently being mailed and Vol. 5, No. 3 would follow VERY soon. If you still have not received your "paid for" issues, PLEASE! call the BBS or have someone do it for you and leave your name and address. He WILL do his best to take care of it.

THE BULL PEN BBS/

SINCLAIR USERS UNITE!

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Continued from page 2

As most of you know, The Bull Pen BBS is the originator of the SINCLAIR USERS UNITE! ECHO. The Sysop has applied for and gotten approval for our echo to be on the national echo "hub". If you have a local Fido/Echo Mail BBS, you should get the sysop to request this echo for you. That way you can keep in contact with fellow TSers all over the country (world?) on a daily basis with little more than a local phone call. For more info, call RMG.

Keep watching-more news next time.

CCATS MEETING OCT.

There were about 15 members present at this meeting, pretty fair turnout. There were no minutes of the last meeting because the secretary missed the meeting and no one else wanted to take any notes. The members present last month held only general discussions.

Old business - The business cards are still in the working stage. Jack & Rod feel they should be ready for printing soon.

Time Designs is said to be ready to mail out volume 2, and that #3 is being put together.

Mike has offered to put together an information program to aid those of us who still are having problems getting good use out of our modems.

New business - RMG enterprises has taken into his already huge stock of software and hardware the inventories of two more ex-suppliers of Timex/Sinclair lines. Mr. Lewis notified us of another swap meet to be held by the CP/M group this month, either the 21st or the 28th. Call Lewis for the time and place.

The newsletters from other user groups has started stacking up and Dick Wagner asked for someone to come to his aid as an assistant librarian, since Galen has not been able to keep up with the task. Jack and Bill both offered to help and they will be working with this on alternate months. Our thanks to both of you.

Bob Curry of BBS has been doing a lot to help us keep our echo alive and it was noted that a little financial help might be appreciated. So far there are 18 echos on the BBS.

There were some discussions on more technical side and perhaps someone of the group will be able to write about these at length in another section of the newsletter or at another time.

Sincerely, B. Schaffler, Secretary

HARDWARE REVIEW

ABC PC KEYBOARD INTERFACE

by: John Brown

(NOTE: This review was received by Rod Gowen, of RMG Enterprises from Mr. Brown, who lives in Miami, FL. It was sent in response to a request from Rod after he found out that Mr. Brown had ordered the GIGA I/F from ABC Electronics in West Germany. Mr. Brown has relatives in W. Germany so he had them get one for him. RMG has been interested in obtaining these for resale in the U.S., but to date has had no success. Your only option at this time is to order direct from W. Germany. We hope that you enjoy this review.)

The interface consists of a 4" square uncased circuit board with ten (10) chips and an EPROM. A socket is provided for the user to install an additional EPROM. Installation consists of removing the QL ROM chips, soldering a wire to the QL and plugging the interface into the QL EPROM socket. The interface has a through connector for any additional board, and a DIN plug for a PC XT keyboard.

The documentation recommends using a screw to fasten the interface to the QL. As most keyboard cables are long and heavy, this screw is essential!! Also, it would be advisable to insulate the back of the board if there is any danger of it touching metal.

Continued on page 3

One major problem of European suppliers is dealing with different languages! Each country has its own keyboard layout. Germany, for instance, has umlauts and accented letters as primary keyboard characters instead of having them hidden behind ALT and CONTROL. Unfortunately, ABC sent me the German EPROM. While experimenting, I discovered that ALT/PrtScr toggled between German and English. Some of the following remarks may not apply to the English EPROM, which I expect to receive in about 2 weeks.

All of the alphanumeric keys work as indicated on the IBM keyboard except the top left key (reverse single quote/tilde). This produces English pound/reverse double quote. The special keys work as described, EXCEPT:

SysRec: No apparent function.
Ctrl/PrtSc: Doesn't work.
ALT/Shift/SysReq: No apparent use.
HOT_KEY: Gives "bad word" report.
"Editors only": These seem to depend on the particular editor used. I suggested to ABC that the documentation list the actual codes produced.

I haven't had a chance to try KEY-ROW, as I don't think I have any programs using it. I HAVE tried CTRL+/CTRL- and they work. Finally, I might be able to make a reasonable score.

Apart from the above, I am very happy with the interface. As far as I know, it's the only one which allows the user to choose from the wide variety of IBM-style keyboards. (I was influenced because my keyboard was FREE!)

The price paid was \$95, including airmail delivery. Even if I had had to buy a keyboard (new from \$60), it would be cheaper than the SPEM. (NOTE: The Schon keyboard unit.)



-PRODUCT REPORT- ELECTRONIC CATALOG

Dick F. Wagner

RMG ENTERPRISES, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, is now publishing an electronic (not electronics) catalog. Subscribers can now read Rod Gowan's computer products catalog and monthly flyers on the monitor of their TS 2068 computer. The catalog and flyers are on DD 40 track 5 1/4 inch disk in place of paper. The word processor used is our old standby, Tasword II with RMG embellishments. It comes only in Larken DOS format. The autostart feature included with #1 catalog disk makes it nice to use. Using LKDOS with the Oliger and Aerco boards requires these boards to be turned off, if autostart is to work.

The screen display is in 64 column format, but can be changed to the usual Tasword smaller window. Printout is set for Epson printer codes, but these can be easily changed. And if the A&J printer driver is not your type, then just overwrite it with your driver codes by going into Basic and load in the MC program you use. All very simple and direct.

RMG provides the same display as is available on the regular printed catalogs and flyers. Each month is dated, and specials may be limited to a specific month.

The catalog is substantial in length and requires two 5 1/4 inch disks to cover the hardware, software, books, etc. that RMG sells. A fine feature is that the reader does not need to scroll thru the whole catalog, just to find an item. Files are named according to type of computer and product so the file name entered into Tasword brings up that sheet. Included are items for the 1000, 1500, 2068, QL and ZX88 computers so there is something for everyone. Later flyers will include specials, one-of-a-kind, latest items, etc.

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Continued from page 4

Here is the good news--the catalog is \$3.00 PP and the monthly flyers are \$12.00 PP per year. Not only do you get all of this but there is a special \$5.00 rebate with the flyer purchase and \$3.00 rebate with the catalog purchase, for purchases amounting to over \$30.00, good until the end of this year. Add two good-sized programs, and you can consolidate the flyer programs on to fewer disks so there are extra disks to use, plus an up-dated Tasword II program with some nice features on the first disk.

The first flyer (Oct.) includes a good LKDOS disk manager program by Kenny Larken and Jack Dohany. As Rod points out, this is a program that has been available but, lacks documentation to be able to use it at its best. With this flyer you get Rod's own "how to" which makes this program very user friendly.

Despite label wording, it is always necessary to start in with the original catalog disk #1 to get autoloading of Tasword II. Then change disks to read the new disk catalog. As the catalog does not stay on the screen for copying the file name it is a good idea to copy the file name exactly (without extensions) for entering into Tasword as a file.

CCAT/S LIBRARY UPDATES

By Dick F. Wagner

Since January our library has received 38 newsletters from 13 different user groups we are on an exchange basis with. We have been sending out 15 copies per month but I find that we are not receiving any issues from 2 user groups. We do not receive any on a monthly basis so are we the only monthly?

There are a lot of articles pertaining to our equipment. As an incentive to members to look into our library I hope to run a column listing articles of interest received each month. This issue will carry a listing of articles in August and September newsletters. Maybe it can be expanded to back issues for this year.

The HACKER, Aug 1989

Timex/Sinclair User Group of Las Vegas

Abbashi--poker dice prog. for 2068

Home security hardware for 2068

SINCUS NEWS, July/Aug, 1989

Sinclair Computer Society

ZX81/TS1000 Tips

Spectrum entry points

Sincus library disk #105

VASHON ISLAND USER GROUP, V 3, #4

VISTA NEWSLETTER

TS Public Domain Library

Update

Catalogs of interest

High Speed duplicator cleaning

Cassette label prog. (2068)

2040 Printer schematic

VISTA ISLAND USER GROUP, V 3, #3

VISTA NEWSLETTER

TS Public Domain Library

Update

Cheap Tip-coat keys

In The Mailbag

T/S 1000 printer tip

Sinclair ZX 16K schematic

CATS NEWSLETTER Aug. 1989

Capital Area Timex/Sinclair UG

PASCAL/QL Networking

Eudaemonic Pie, book review

QL utilities.

I.S.T.U.G. Newsletter, Jul/Aug 1989

Indiana Sinclair-Timex UG

Meeting news

SNUG ?

Ad--OS 64 software

Confused About Fonts?

B.B.S. — WHAT IS IT?

Reprint from the Sept. 1989 issue of THE HACKER, the Timex-Sinclair of Las Vegas User Group. By SYSOP John Sumpolec.

"The question for this month's article is "WHAT IS A BBS"? This question has probably been asked many times by many BBS users (Ed. and non-users). Probably the answer that most would give is that a BBS is a good place to build up your Public Domain files and get plenty of top quality Shareware and Freeware. Well, in a way it is partially true in a secondary manner, but I myself think that the primary reason for a BBS is the exchange of ideas, discussions of local and national

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Continued from page 5

topics and the exchange of personal, private and public messages. One day a while back while I was logged on to FLASH BBS, I read a message to ALL from BOB ROYAL, the SYSOP, on the above topic which I think sums it up. It reads as follows, quote "BBS or Bulletin Board System---what images form in your mind as you repeat those simple words to yourself? Ignoring the system part for the moment, a bulletin board reminds me of the large rectangular, cork-covered shapes plastered on the wall of each school classroom. Going a step further, of what use were they put? Easy enough to answer--all manner of paper was stapled and pinned to them. I remember the infamous school lunch menu was visible in the lower corner along with one or more announcement from the principal--he always found a way to increase the knowledge in our heads--primarily by way of our seats! Without taking an excessive trip down memory lane, we all agree that a "BBS" purpose in life was to keep us informed by way of written communication.

With the advent of the "little yellow post-its", we found new ways of getting the message across. But I still haven't found a way to stick one of those little buggers someplace where you'll be able to see it. We need to come up with a system--Ah! A Bulletin Board System!! A way to communicate with others of our species using the advances that modern technology has provided us.

If all of this is true, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE THAT CALL AND ONLY DOWNLOAD SOFTWARE!! We of the message readers/ writers may be few, but our cause is just as true. As long as we keep our pens filled (keyboards in this case) and our paper supply full, we shall prevail.

Where would mankind be if our entire history was never recorded in written form? It has taken thousands of years to get where we are today. Don't let apathay take you back to the dark ages. Get involved in the BBS's you visit and in the life you lead. Those around you may be surprised at your actions, but richer fuller life will be the reward." unquote.

"certificate" program from the SINCUS disk #102.
One of 41 programs on this disk in our library.

Use C SHIFT 9 and letters

```
5 REM certificat
10 BORDER 6: PAPER 7: INK 0: C
LS : RESTORE : GO SUB 9000
200 INPUT "How many lines?(1-8)
":L: IF L>8 THEN GO TO 200
225 IF L=8 THEN LET Y=4
226 IF L=7 THEN LET Y=5
227 IF L=6 THEN LET Y=6
228 IF L=5 THEN LET Y=7
229 IF L=4 THEN LET Y=8
230 IF L=3 THEN LET Y=9
231 IF L=2 THEN LET Y=10
232 IF L=1 THEN LET Y=11
233 FOR I=1 TO L
234 INPUT "Print line (1-26 cha
r.) ":C$: PRINT AT Y,(32-LEN C$)
/2;C$
235 LET Y=Y+2
240 PRINT
250 NEXT I
8080 PRINT AT 20,2;"P E C C E F
F"
8085 PRINT AT 21,2;"X = + 0 ||
0 * + X = :: 0 0
8090 INPUT "Which graphics symbo
l? ":A$
8100 FOR I=0 TO 31: PRINT AT 0,I
:A$;: NEXT I
8110 FOR I=0 TO 31: PRINT AT 1,I
:A$;: NEXT I
8120 FOR I=1 TO 18: PRINT TAB 0;
OVER 1;A$;A$;TAB 30; OVER 1;A$;
A$;: NEXT I
8130 FOR I=1 TO 64: PRINT A$;: N
EXT I
8999 STOP
9000 REM UDG
9010 DATA 255,255,195,195,195,19
5,255,255
9020 FOR A=0 TO 7
9030 READ B: POKE USR "0"+A,B
9040 NEXT A
9060 DATA 129,66,60,60,60,60,66,
129
9070 FOR A=0 TO 7
9080 READ B: POKE USR "X"+A,B
9090 NEXT A
9110 DATA 0,255,255,0,0,255,255,
0
9120 FOR A=0 TO 7
9130 READ B: POKE USR "="+A,B
9140 NEXT A
9160 DATA 0,24,24,126,126,24,24,
0
9170 FOR A=0 TO 7
9180 READ B: POKE USR "+"+A,B
9190 NEXT A
9210 DATA 0,60,126,102,102,126,6
0,0
9220 FOR A=0 TO 7
9230 READ B: POKE USR "0"+A,B
9240 NEXT A
9260 DATA 102,102,102,102,102,10
2,102,102
9270 FOR A=0 TO 7
9280 READ B: POKE USR "||"+A,B
9290 NEXT A
9310 DATA 60,126,195,195,195,195
,126,60
9320 FOR A=0 TO 7
9330 READ B: POKE USR "O"+A,B
9340 NEXT A
9360 DATA 204,204,51,51,204,204,
51,51
9370 FOR A=0 TO 7
9380 READ B: POKE USR "X"+A,B
9390 NEXT A
9410 DATA 24,24,0,219,219,0,24,2
4
9420 FOR A=0 TO 7
9430 READ B: POKE USR "+"+A,B
9440 NEXT A
9460 DATA 195,195,60,60,60,60,19
5,195
9470 FOR A=0 TO 7
9480 READ B: POKE USR "X"+A,B
9490 NEXT A
```

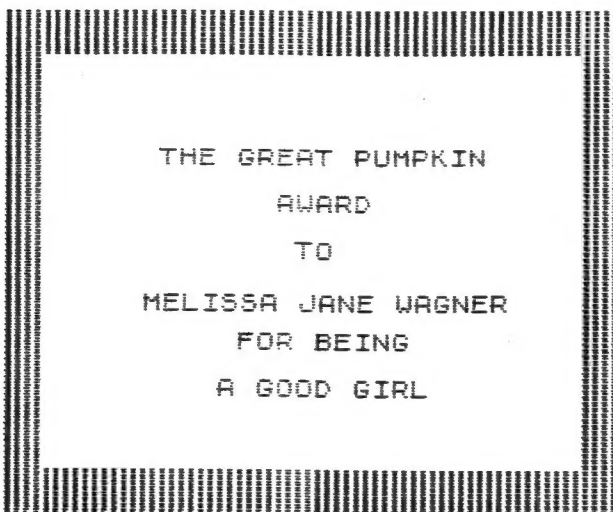
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```

9510 DATA 0,238,238,0,0,238,238,
0
9520 FOR a=0 TO 7
9530 READ b: POKE USR "="+a,b
9540 NEXT a
9560 DATA 231,231,231,0,0,231,23
1,231
9570 FOR a=0 TO 7
9580 READ b: POKE USR ":"+a,b
9590 NEXT a
9610 DATA 0,126,66,66,66,66,126,
0
9620 FOR a=0 TO 7
9630 READ b: POKE USR "D"+a,b
9640 NEXT a
9660 DATA 255,129,129,129,129,12
9,129,255
9670 FOR a=0 TO 7
9680 READ b: POKE USR "I"+a,b
9690 NEXT a
9700 RETURN
9999 SAVE "certificat" LINE 1

```



YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENIFITS

By Dick F. Wagner

The following little program will provide helpful information concerning the date on which you will receive the optimum benefit from your Social Security payment. It gives the year and month at which you may retire, based on your birth year, so as to receive no early retirement penalty.

After RUN, make a printed copy of the screen in 2 steps with COPY.

```

10 PRINT "          SOCIAL SECU
RITY"
14 PRINT : PRINT "          by
Dick Wagner"
18 PRINT : PRINT "Information
from Social SecurityAdministrati
on": PRINT

```

20 PRINT : PRINT "Contrary to the common concept that at the age of 65 the beneficiary can collect full social security benefits upon retirement on that birthday, the full benefit package depends upon one's birth date. The following table displays the plan worked out by the Social Security Administration

```

30 PAUSE 800
40 CLS
50 PRINT "Year of Birth";AT 0,
19;"Full Benifits"
60 PRINT AT 1,22;"at Age-"
90 FOR n=1 TO 6
100 READ a
105 READ b$
110 PRINT TAB 3;a;TAB 19;b$
120 NEXT n
130 PRINT "      1943-1954      6
yrs"
200 DATA 1937,"65 yrs",1938,"65
yrs, 2 mo",1939,"65 yrs, 4 mo"
210 DATA 1940,"65 yrs, 6 mo",19
41,"65 yrs, 8 mo",1942,"65 yrs,
10 mo"
215 FOR n=1 TO 5
220 READ a
230 READ b$
240 PRINT TAB 3;a;TAB 19;b$
250 NEXT n
300 DATA 1955,"66 yrs, 2 mo",19
56,"66 yrs, 4 mo",1957,"66 yrs,
6 mo"
310 DATA 1958,"66 yrs, 8 mo",19
59,"66 yrs, 10 mo"
320 PRINT TAB 3;"1960 and after
67 yrs"
325 PRINT
330 PRINT "No benifits before a
ge 62, and there is a permanent
cut for those who retire bef
ore age 65, as much as 20%. CHEC
K IT OUT!"

```

CALCUATOR

Dick F. Wagner

Here is a little program that should come in handy for calculating values during program development. Put it in as a temporary subroutine either at the beginning or end. If at the beginning follow it with STOP. If at the end precede it with STOP. This program still gives a flashing "L" or "C" indicating an input is required. For input, type the whole problem except the variable, as "5^11". The problem and answer is displayed on the lower screen area.

```

10 PRINT #1; AT 0,0; INVERSE 1
;" What is your problem: Press
any key for INPUT "; PAUSE 0
20 INPUT G$
30 LET A=VAL G$
40 PRINT #1; AT 0,0; INVERSE 1
;" The answer to your problem
is: ";G$;" ": PAUSE 0

```

=====

HELP THE LIBRARY!

The EDITOR

The CCAT/S need help to finish 4 sets of programs on 5 1/4 DS LKDOS. The programs are from a set purchased from SINCUS in OLIGER format that have been changed over to LKDOS. There are about a total of 200 programs. All of the programs are entered. We need someone to make print-outs of the catalogs of each disk to be kept with that disk. The printing should be in single column so the paper can be cut and folded for insertion in the envelopes. I have a program to do this. Here is a chance to do a good deed for the group. Any volunteers?



NOVEMBER MEETING ON FRIDAY 10th

-NOTICE-

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meeting. This newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

FREE SUBSCRIPTION WITH PAID
CCAT/S MEMBERSHIP-\$20.00/YR

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

AD RATES

1 FOUR LINE CLASSIFIED FREE
WITH MEMBERSHIP

\$.50 / LINE
\$ 5.00 / 1/4 PAGE
\$ 8.00 / 1/2 PAGE
\$ 15.00 / FULL PAGE

ALL AD COPY MUST BE IN BY
THE 10TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR
TO THE MONTH AD IS TO RUN.

===== -8- =====

CCAT/S

1419 1/2 7TH Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

ROD GOWEN (TREASURER)
(place label here)
1419 1/2 7TH STREET
OREGON CITY, OR 97045
A0003:12<89/ML